

A

# REVIEW

## OF THE

# STATE

## OF THE

# BRITISH NATION.

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Tuesday, August 10. 1708.

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I Cannot help putting this Age in Mind of the Injury they do themselves, by their constant misrepresenting Things to themselves; and tho' we have daily Instances of it, 'tis to no Purpose to talk of it to them; How melancholly are we all now upon the Subject of *Tortosa*, the Taking of *Tortosa*? And whence comes the Chagrin of this Affair, but from the horrid Cheers put upon us every Day in our publick Prints, in their relating the Affairs of that Country? — It cannot but be fresh in every Body's Memory, how that upon the first Opening the Campaign on that side, we bluffed in all our Prints, that the *French* were disappointed in their Designs, that the Duke of *Orleans* could bring but 16000 Men into the Field, instead of 35000 which he

was to have; that the *D. De Noailles* could bring but 7000 Men, instead of 14000 which he was to have; that the Want of Money had defeated all their Designs, that their Troops could not march, that they had no Artillery, and that the Taking of the Fleet of *Tarranes* laden with Provisions, &c. had quite ruin'd all their Measures, for that they could by no Means subsist in the Country; that Provisions were so scarce, the Army could not march, and that there was not Corn in the whole Country to maintain the People — That they must be oblig'd to send for their Artillery and ammunition quite from *Biscay* and *Nivarre*, and for their Provisions over the Mountains quite into *France*, which would be long a coming.

Upon these Chimera's, one Paper tells us, the Duke of Orleans had given over all Thoughts of a Siege; another from *Barcelona*, that they were now in no Manner of Pain for *Tortosa*.—Another, that Count *Staremberg* being arriv'd, the Army was drawing together to act offensively; another, or the same at another Time, that it was not doubted now, but the *French* would be driven from their new Conquests, and a thousand Rhodomontades of this Kind.

One reckoning up the Forces on every side, tells us, first the Duke of Orleans cannot march for Want of Money, that he finds himself so out in his Account, that all the Troops he can bring into the Field will not be 16000 Men, and those in Want of all Necessaries; that the Duke-De Noailles is in no Condition to act, that nothing is to be fear'd from that side having not 7000 Men in his Army; but when he comes to King Charles's Army, that is in a fine Posture, his Infantry is 18000, his Cavalry 4000 of regular Troops, besides the Miquelets, who are called very considerable, and that he is drawing into the Field, to face the Enemy.

Now, Gentlemen, having seen all these fine Accounts, and accordingly believing them, we set our Hearts at Rest about *Catalogna*, we apprehended no Danger there; if the *French* gave us any Accounts of their Progress and Marches, we thought it all Blyther and Show, and that it was spread abroad only to raise the Spirits of their Men; that there was nothing in it, but all was well.

At length Things come to Action; and the first Thing we meet with is, that be it never so long a March over the Mountains, for the Cannon and Ammunition to be brought quite over Land from *Biscay*, yet that it is come up in Time, that whether the *French* have Money or Provisions or no, yet they march.—The Army of King Charles which was to act offensively is not heard of, no not one Word of it.—No Troops are posted in such Passes of the Mountains, where 2000 Men have kept out 20000; nay, the very *French* themselves are surpriz'd to find the Confederates abandon such Advanta-

ges.—And thus the Siege of *Tortosa* is form'd.

Well, all the while the Siege lasts, our News-Men again tell us, the *French* make no Progress, the Ground is so rocky, they cannot carry on their Approaches; nay, one tells us, it is so rotten, they cannot make their Approaches, Rocky or Rotten is alike to them, just as one of our Learned Writers the other Day call'd a *Danish* Colonel, a *Den*.

At last the Town, with a Garrison of near 3000 regular Troops, besides as they told us 6000 Miquelets and Inhabitants, is surrendred, and if our Accounts, at least what we have hitherto seen, are true, we have not much to boast of the Defence they made all this while; the Army of King Charles, which was to act offensively, is looking on and can do nothing.—And now we are thagria and melancholly for the Taking of *Tortosa*.—Really, Gentlemen, if you had begun right, you would have compounded with the *French* for *Tortosa*, and I dare say the *French* are much more disappointed than you, that they have gone no farther; if we consider the Circumstances of King of Charles at the Beginning of the Year, it was very much the *French* had not by this Time beaten them to the Gates of *Barcelona*, and if King Charles receives the German Troops now coming with the Queen of Spain, perhaps the *French* may receive some Checque in their Progress.

As to the Army of King Charles, I'd allow, the full Tale they have given us, viz. That King Charles had 18000 Foot and 4000 Horse, but they never told us, how many of these King Charles could draw into the Field, and how many it would be necessary to place in the Frontier Towns; and let the Gentlemen but discount 4000 in Garrison in *Tortosa*, 2000 in *Gironne*, and 2500 in *Terragona*, and 3000 Foot and 2000 Horse with the Prince of Hesse, facing the Duke of Noailles, and 1000 with the King in *Barcelona*, with about 2000 in other petty Garrisons, which is too few; reckon but these, and it can be no Wonder, that Count *Staremberg* did not attempt to disturb the *French* in the Siege of *Tortosa*; and as to the Defence of the Place, I perswade my

my self, they were order'd not to hold out so long as to be made Prisoners, but rather to yield the Town, and save the Troops for a Time of Action in the Field.

But thus you may see, how we suffer our selves to be amus'd with senseless and foolish Reports of Things, and then when we have flatter'd our selves into an effectual

Cheat, we grow chagr'd at our Misfortune, and cry out of our Disappointment.

And just thus we act in the Case of the late Victory, while our Passions will not wait upon our Reason; had we but a suitable Talent of Patience, Things would come out in their Course, to our better and more compleat Satisfaction.

## MISCELLANEA.

I Have not troubled you of late with any of the Affairs of *Scotland*, I know your Time is so taken up with News from abroad, with hearing of Victories, *believing them up to twice as big as they really are*, and then *believing them down to nothing at all*, that you have no leisure to look at home, and see how your own Affairs go; and now, Gentlemen of the *High Church*, that love to have something to complain of, that are ever seeking and finding, or making some Occasion against your Neighbours, how come you have not consoled with your Brethren in the *North*, that have been in some Trouble lately about what they call here Matters of Religion.

I think the best, and indeed the only Service that can be done by Authors and Writers of *Reviews and Observators*, or any other Paper that passs Judgment upon publick Affairs, for I make no Distinctions, is to set the Affairs of the World, whether Foreign or Domestick, in a true Light, and to give Mankind a clear View of them without Partiality, Prejudice, Passion or Prepossession; so far as any of us, shall not at all except my self, deviate from this Rule, so far we break in upon our proper Business, and do Harm rather than Good—I shall say no more of my self than this, that it really is my Desire and whole Design to do this in these Papers, and in every thing I write; and as I am perfectly disinterested in either side, after all that Clamour and Railery has suggested, as I get nothing of them, nor ask nothing from them on either side, I think my self the freer and the better qualified to speak impartially—Having nothing

to fear or hope for from any Thing, Person or Party under Heaven.

I know, I have before me a Case of some Nicety, and the Distinctions on the subject must be very nice, since not to do Injury on one hand or other, and yet give the Age an impartial Account of an Affair that goes so near to the very Edge of two differing Interests, is not the easiest Thing in the World.

In order therefore to state the Case before me as unexceptionably as I can, I shall give a short Abridgment of it here, and in my next you shall have perhaps an exact History of Fact, as the Story will come in.

I need not premise that I expect a great Deal of Noise and Clamour at the very Story in general, and indeed it is to let the World judge of that Noise and Clamour, and to make the World, if possible, capable of judging for themselves, that I make this Attempt; in which I shall neither regard nor reply to the Cavils and Quarrels of Objectors, at least till I have gone thro' the Relation, which I shall do as concisely as I can.

When the Revolution in *Scotland* after the Model of that in *England* had taken Place as to the Affair of Civil Government, and King *William* was plac'd on the abdicated Throne of that Kingdom, there appear'd this Difference only between the Revolution in either Nation, *Viz.* That in *Scotland* they behov'd to have an Ecclesiastick as well as Civil Revolution—The Kirk of *Scotland* had originally re-form'd into Presbyterianism, which by the way tho' some cavil at, I think, is sufficiently prov'd,

prov'd, but had ~~been~~ several Times oblig'd by the Imposition of their Monarchs in mere Assistance to Tyranny, to receive a new Hierarchy of Episcopal Government; this the People often struggled with, and several Times depos'd and abolish'd, but ever declar'd their Aversion to, and it being declar'd by the P. of Orange, that he would settle that Kind of Church Government in Scotland, which should be most agreeable to the Inclinations of the People, the People sufficiently declar'd their Inclinations, by universally pulling down Episcopacy, and setting up the Presbyterian Church Government by Act of Parliament.

Upon the deposing of Episcopacy, it was expected, that Abundance of the Ministers would be deposed, and they began to turn all out that would not conform to the new Establishment.—But after some time Application being made to the Government, in Behalf of such as were peaceably inclin'd tho' they were Episcopal; An Act of Parliament was pass'd in the Year 1695, Entitled, An Act concerning the Church, whereing taking the Oaths to the Government was made the only Qualification of a Minister, so that no Man could be depos'd, tho' he were Episcopal, if he would qualify himself by taking the Oaths to the Government. From whence it is apparent, that the main Cry of Persecution in Scotland is for Non-Conformity to the Civil Government, not for dissenting from the Church.—And this is demonstrated by an Article, which perhaps may be something surprizing to the People in England at this Time, Viz. That there are now preaching and enjoying their Benefices in Scotland under the Presbyterian Church Government, above 120 Ministers who are Episcopal, professedly so, and never were others, and most of whom neither own or conform to, much less submit to the Presbyterian Discipline or Government, but are only qualify'd by taking the Oaths.—This I note for those to consider, who are possess'd of the Belief of the Church of Scotland, persecuting her Religious Episcopal Dissenters.—I shall go on with this in my next.



**B**ARTLETT's Inventions, for the Cure of Ruptures, which have gain'd so Universal Esteem, are now, yet farther Improv'd to so great a Nicety, that one of his Steel Spring Trusses of the largest Size, seldom exceeds 4 ounces in Weight, and one of the smallest rarely exceeds a quarter of an Ounce, and are so well adapted to the shapes of human Bodies, that they are extraordinary easy even to Infants of a Day Old, and Intirely keep up the Ruptures of what Bigness soever. Also divers Instruments to help the Weak and Crooked. By P. Bartlett at the Golden Ball by the Ship Tavern in Prescot Street in Goodmans Fields, London.

NOTE, He forges and finishes his Trusses him'self, by which means he daily Improves his Inventions.

☞ I Thomas Pritchard, at the Saracens-Head in Little Carter Lane, near St. Paul's, London, having a Son who had a very bad Rupture, and applying to Mr. Bartlett, at the Golden Ball in Prescot-street in Goodman's-Fields, London, He perform'd the Cure in four Days to my great Surprise, and my Son has remain'd well ever since.

This is to give Notice, that I Richard Baker, of Lawrence-Poltneys Lane, Cannonstreet, London, having had a Rupture for about fifty Years; at last I apply'd my self to the late Mr. Christopher Bartlett, at the Golden Ball by the Tavern in Prescot-street in Goodman's-Fields; who, by his ingenious Invention of Spring-Trusses and Rupture Spirits, with the Blessing of GOD, made a perfect Cure in about eight Months, and I have been perfectly well ever since, which is about four or five Years.

NOTE, His Son P. Bartlett lives at the same Place as above-mention'd, and carries on the same Business, as his Father did; having been by him thoroughly Instructed therein.